

OPINION 1919

Polyrhachis Smith, 1857 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): given precedence over *Myrma* Billberg, 1820

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; FORMICIDAE; ants; *Polyrhachis*; *Myrma*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1857 is hereby given precedence over *Myrma* Billberg, 1820 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1857 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Formica bihamata* Drury, 1773, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Myrma* Billberg, 1820 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Myrma* Billberg, 1820 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Wheeler (1911) *Formica militaris* Fabricius, 1781, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1857 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *bihamata* Drury, 1773, as published in the binomen *Formica bihamata* (specific name of the type species of *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1857);
 - (b) *militaris* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the binomen *Formica militaris* (specific name of the type species of *Myrma* Billberg, 1820).

History of Case 3009

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1857 by giving it precedence over *Myrma* Billberg, 1820 was received from Dr Wolfgang H.O. Dorow (*Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*), Dr Rudolf J. Kohout (*Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*) and Dr Robert W. Taylor (*Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia*) on 12 December 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 236–241 (December 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 54: 238–239. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1998 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 19: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Kabata, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Štys

Negative votes — none.

No votes were received from Dupuis, Lehtinen, Kerzhner, Kraus and Song. Hoppell and Ride were on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

bilamata, *Formica*, Drury, 1773, *Illustrations of natural history; wherein are exhibited ... figures of exotic insects*, vol 2, p. 73, index.

militaris, *Formica*, Fabricius, 1781, *Species Insectorum ...*, vol. 1, p. 493.

Myrma Billberg, 1820, *Enumeratio Insectorum in Museo Gust. Joh. Billberg*, p. 104.

Polyrhachis Smith, 1857, *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, Zoology*, 2: 58.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Formica militaris* Fabricius, 1781 as the type species of the nominal genus *Myrma* Billberg, 1820:

Wheeler, W.M. 1911. *Science*, (n.s.)33: 859.